

Application Ser. No.: 10/075,635
 Filing Date: February 13, 2002
 Examiner: Coleman, Brenda Libby

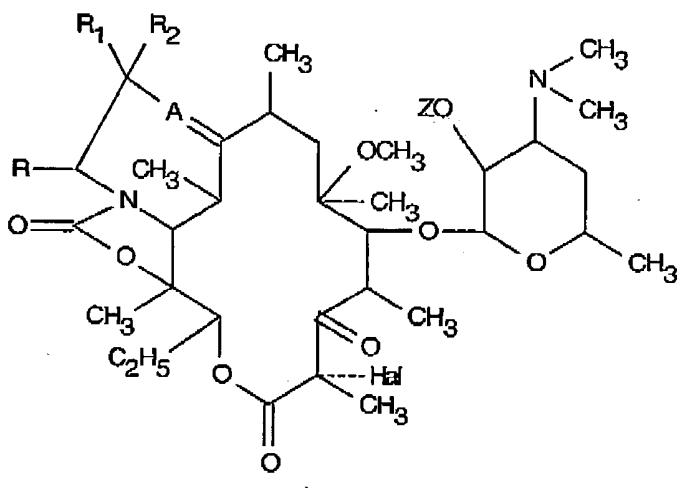
Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims set forth below with amendments as indicated will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

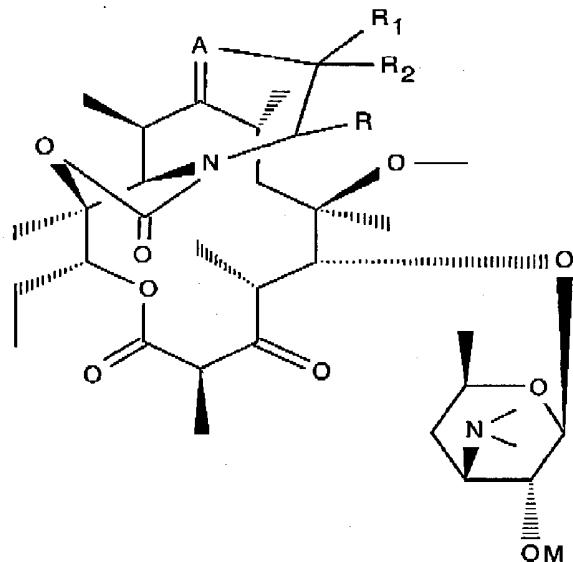
A is nitrogen or N→O;

Hal is halogen;

R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and are independently chosen from hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl;

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R is $-(CH_2)_mOB$; wherein
 m is an integer from 1 to 8; and
 B is hydrogen, $-COAr$ or $-(CH_2)_n-Ar$; wherein
 n is an integer from 1 to 8; and
 Ar is a mono- or polycyclic aryl or heteroaryl;
 Z is hydrogen or C_1-C_{18} -acyl;
 said process comprising:
 reacting a compound of formula (IIIA)

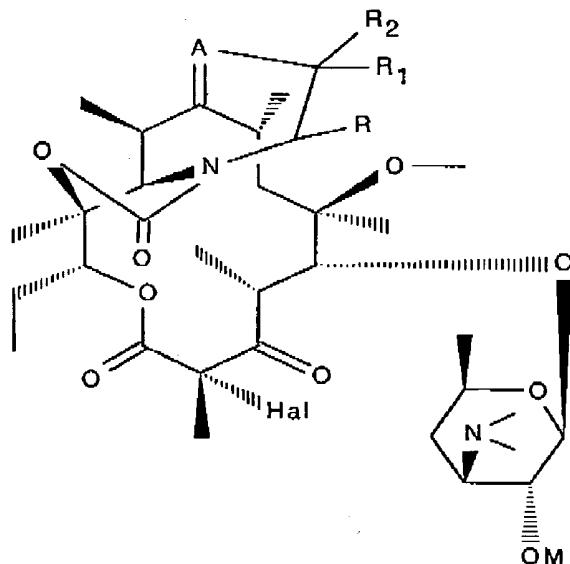


(IIIA);

wherein:

A, R, R₁ and R₂ are as defined above; and
 M is a hydroxyl protecting group;
 with a suitable halogenating agent to obtain a compound of the formula IB:

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(IB); and

reacting the compound of formula (IB) with a suitable deprotecting agent to obtain the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen.

15. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen with a suitable esterification agent to obtain the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is C_1-C_{18} -acyl.
16. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen with a suitable acid to form the corresponding acid addition salt of the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen.
17. (New) The process as set forth in claim 15, further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is C_1-C_{18} -acyl with a suitable acid to form the

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corresponding acid addition salt of the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is C₁-C₁₈-acyl.

18. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein M is a silyl protecting group.

19. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein M is trimethylsilyl group.

20. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein said halogenation is carried out in the presence of a suitable base.

21. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein said halogenation is carried out in the presence of potassium tert-butoxide.

22. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein said halogenating agent is of the formula:

